# Equal Rights

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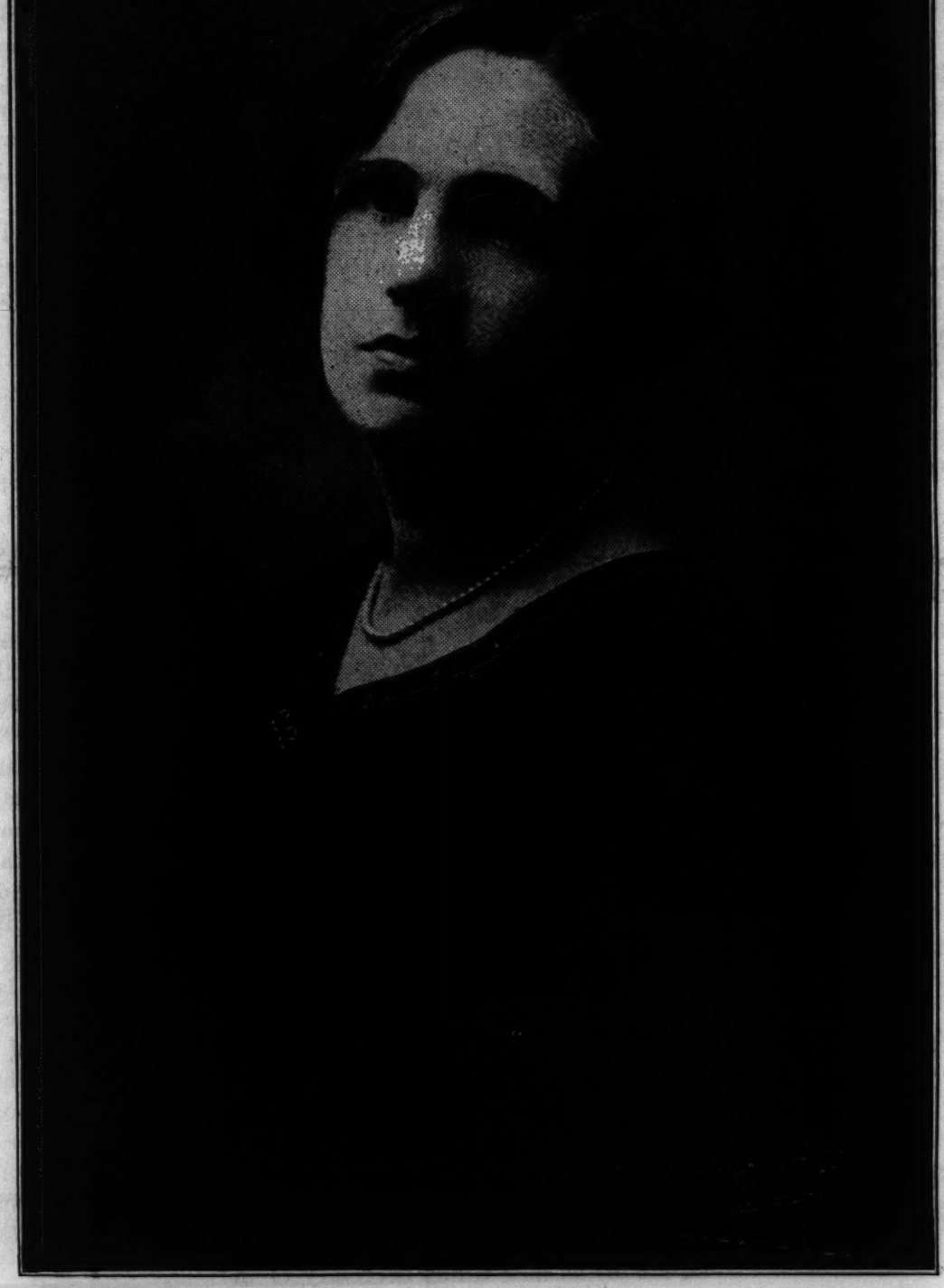

Licila Luciana de Perez Diaz

**Member of the Inter-American Commission of Women, writer, historian, and mother of eight children, who took up her work with the Commission in Washington last week.**

# Feminist Notes

### Feminists Campaign in Airplane

THE airplane has been enlisted by South American women in the campaign for their rights. Bertha Lutz, distinguished Brazilian Feminist, who has on several occasions visited the United States in the interests of the woman's movement, has just made highly successful flights in order to scatter Feminist literature far and wide.

After a brief flight in May, Miss Lutz, president of the Brazilian Federation for Women's Progress, and Clotilde Mello Vianna, secretary to the Federation, flew over several States scattering Feminist printed matter in the cities across which they winged their way. This long flight was from Rio de Janeiro to Natal, capital of Rio Grande de Norte, the only State of Brazil which has given its women the right to vote—a distance of more than 1,000 miles. These daring aviators and splendid Feminists completed this flight on July 6. Their achievement has been the cause of quickened interest in the question of women's rights throughout Brazil, and will doubtless have its effect on the next Congress.

The wings of their airplane bore the legend in flaming letters: "Voto Feminino," which is the Portuguese equivalent of the familiar slogan, "Votes for Women."

### Opportunity for Women in Medicine

THE new Gotham Hospital proposed by the Women's Medical Association of New York City, Inc., would provide new opportunities for men and women physicians to work together. The hospital, the Association says, would correspondingly assist the advancement of women physicians and surgeons (some seven hundred in New York City) who now find it difficult to make hospital affiliations. The chiefs of staffs would be women, but the staffs themselves would comprise both men and women. The hospital will have a graduate staff of nurses instead of the usual training school where a young student nurse must scrub floors between lectures.

The idea for the Gotham Hospital was originated because the New York Medical College and Hospital for Women had recently been closed and the New York Infirmary for Women and Children was considering closing. The Women's Medical Association of New York City, Inc., began the consideration of the problem from the standpoint of what the opportunities for the training of women doctors would be after the two agencies available for the purpose had passed out of existence.

### Women for Women in Luxemburg

ORGANIZED women in Luxemburg utilized the June elections in two of the four constituencies in that little country to advance their program and to support two women candidates for Parliament. The Clerical, Radical, and Labor parties ignored them. They worked, therefore, through the independent group, which nominated two women candidates and gave an important place in its program to the demands of the women. Under the proportional system of voting which prevails in Luxemburg, only one seat was reserved for this party, and that fell to its leader. The women candidates, however, obtained second and fourth places, "a result," says C. Schleimer-Kill in the *International Woman Suffrage News,* "of which we can be proud and which shows clearly that Feminism is making progress in our country. *L'Action Feminine* asked the leaders of the different parties to promote the nomination of women and is obliged to report that men who anxiously seek the votes of women refuse to give them a place on the ticket for fear of losing their own seats."

The next move is to secure the nomination of qualified women for the communal councils, elections to which take place in October, and to support them regardless of what party ticket they are on.

### Candidates for Congress

CHARLOTTE ANITA WHITNEY is a candidate for the United States Senate from California on the ticket of the Workers' Communist Party of America. Ruth B. Pratt, first woman member of the New York City Board of Alderman, is candidate for the Republican nomination for Representative in Congress from the Seventeenth New York Congressional District.

There is, of course, no likelihood of Miss Whitney's election, on account of the ticket on which she was nominated. If Mrs. Pratt should be nominated, she would have a chance at being elected, although the district is now represented by a Democrat, who succeeded a Republican, Ogden Mills, now Under-Secretary of the Treasury.

### Hand-Wrought Nails

TWO large orders from South America for hand-wrought nails brought to light the fact that only one person, a woman, remained of the many who at one time made Lye, England, the center of the industry. Mrs. Brettle, assisted by her niece, is the only person able to produce the small type of nail ordered. She produces about 20 pounds of nails daily.

### Women Head Parties in New York

BECAUSE of the death of George K. Morris, chairman of the New York State Republican Committee, and the resignation of Edwin Corning, chairman of the New York State Democratic Committee, women are now at the head of both major parties in New York State. Sarah Schuyler Butler, as vice-chairman, succeeded to the chairmanship of the Republican committee, and Caroline O'Day succeeded to the Democratic chairmanship. But not for long, it would seem. Miss Butler and Mrs. O'Day are expected to hold the chairmanships only until meetings can be held at which chairmen of the respective parties will be selected, although both of them are able politicians with extensive experience.

### Policewomen Finally Appointed

THE curious battle in New York City over the appointment of six policewomen to existing vacancies finally resulted in a victory for the women on August 13, when Police Commissioner Warren, after waiting until the last possible moment, made the appointments.

It is said that Mayor Walker intervened and insisted upon the appointment of the women who headed the Civil Service list of eligibles which would have expired on the day when the commissioner finally made the appointments. The salaries of the 121 patrolwomen and police matrons in New York City range from $1,769 to $2,500 a year.

Police Commissioner Warren's opposition to women on the force came to light some time ago when he heard that the policewomen had been ordered to appear at headquarters for inspection in their new uniforms. The commissioner was indignant when he heard that new uniforms had been ordered for the women. Then some one reminded him that he had himself signed the order for the new uniforms. But he cancelled the order for the inspection, and said, according to the newspapers:

"The uniform is to be worn only by those doing duty as matrons; that's all they're good for anyway."

### A Plucky Traveler

DIANA STRICKLAND, who some years ago crossed the Belgian Congo on foot, has now accomplished a perilous journey across the widest part of Africa in a motor-car. She set out from Dakar, on the West Coast of Africa, with one mechanic, to undertake a 6,000-mile journey to Cairo. The mechanic fell out, and this dauntless woman continued her journey alone. Africa has never been crossed in this manner before.

# Russian Women in Politics and Industry

ON THE occasion of the International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8, 1928, the Soviet press published a series of items characterizing the role of women in various walks of life in the U. S. S. R.

Greater political activity of women became noticeable lately. This was particularly revealed by their participation in the Soviet elections. While in 1926 six million peasant women had taken part in the rural Soviet elections, this number increased to 6,500,000 in 1927. At the elections of 1927, 146,251 women were elected to the rural Soviets (11.3 per cent. of the total number of Soviet delegates), and 22,221 women (21.5 per cent.) to the urban Soviets. At the last Soviet elections in the Eastern republics upwards of one million Eastern women took part.

The number of women employed in the industries amounts to 743,000. The numerical growth of working women is noticeable not only in those branches of industry where their labor finds its usual application, but also in other branches, such as the mining, metal, and other industries.

The number of women receiving unemployment doles makes up 32 per cent. of the total number of unemployed women. Moreover, in the past year special doles were granted to the amount of 130,000,000 rubles, including over 27,000,000 rubles for pregnancy doles, 45,000,000 rubles for the feeding of children, 20,000,000 for layette, *et cetera*.

The number of illiterate women has been decreasing from year to year. Between 1922 and 1926, 622,000 women have been taught to read and write. In the school year 1926-27, 37,362 women (31.31 per cent.) studied in the higher educational establishments, and 45,340 women (45.01 per cent.) in vocational schools.

By October, 1927, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union numbered 145,000 women—full-fledged members and applicants on probation—constituting 12.8 per cent. of the total membership of the party. According to the data of the party census, 46.9 per cent. of the total number of Communist women are working women; 35.6 per cent., office employes; 9.5 per cent., peasant women; while 8 per cent. belong to other groups. The number of Communist women working in factories and workshops amounts to 50,000, or 34.4 per cent. of all women members of the Communist Party. The total percentage of women party members has somewhat decreased of late—from 13.1 to 12.8 per cent.

The number of women belonging to the Communist Youth League has greatly increased in the course of the last few years. On October 1, 1927, the number of women amounted to 412,644 (or 21.6 per cent.) out of a total membership of 1,912,435. This is a large increase, as compared with the number of women members on January 1, 1924, which amounted to only 63,846 (15.7 per cent.), and with that of January 1, 1925, aggregating 164,036 (16.1 per cent.).

On January 1, 1927, the number of peasant girls in the Communist Youth League aggregated 173,020, which is 16.4 per cent. of all members recruited from the villages, as against 63,960 (12.3 per cent.) on January 1, 1925.

The aggregate number of "Pioneers" (an organization of boys and girls of from 8 to 16 years, corresponding to the Boy and Girl Scouts in other countries) was 1,719,944 on July 1, 1927. Of this number 716,717 were girls (41.7 per cent.), as against 412,550 (41.3 per cent.) on January 1, 1925. The industrial "Pioneer" detachments include 42.4 per cent. girls, as against 35.3 per cent. in the village detachments. The "Pioneer" detachments of Siberia and of the Ural region include the highest percentage of girls, who constitute 50.3 and 49.3 per cent. of the total, respectively.

# Mayors and Mayoresses

By Frances Keipel

OF all the awkward expressions we have had the privilege of seeing in print recently, "Mayors and Mayoresses," seems to us to lead.

Not long ago, we attended a banquet for women. The only man present was the minister of the church where the affair was held. He spoke in the highest terms of the toastmistress, who was the president of the Women's League of the church.

Shortly afterwards, in the course of our reading, we came across the following words: proprietresses, authoresses, priestesses, postmistresses, committeewomen, citizenesses, deaconesses, and millionairesses. How much more simple life would be if we would just take the word already in general use, just as we appropriated the word chairman. After all nobody could really stop us, you know. How much more dignified it sounds to use the word mayor, irrespective of sex. Toastmaster, proprietor, author, priest, postmaster, committeeman, citizen, deacon, and millionaire would naturally follow.

Of course, all of us have heard of female doctors, lady doctors, doctor ladies, women doctors, and doctor women. We have even heard the expression doctress, which we felt was carrying the distinction of sex entirely too far. If you were drowning, would it make any difference to you whether you were resuscitated by a doctor or a doctress? Personally we would be equally grateful to either, and we believe the average sensible man would be also.

The men speak of the head of their lodges as master. Why must the women use the expression mistress or matron? Why not say master, worthy master, grand worthy master in our lodges, also?

The word fraternity really means brothers, we suppose, but to us the word sorority seems inadequate, so we have adopted the word fraternity for an organization composed entirely of women. Nobody so far has made any effort to stop us. If they do, we shall keep right on using it anyway.

We hear men talking a great deal about brotherly love these days. Here's hoping the day will soon come when every woman will feel in her heart brotherly love towards every other woman!

## MAYORS NOW

THE following story, sent by W. A. S. Douglas of the London Bureau of the Baltimore *Sun* to his paper on August 18, seems to indicate that the tendency in England is to use the word "Mayor" in referring to the holder of the office, and to restrict the word "Mayoress" to its original meaning—the woman who is official hostess for the mayor.

Mr. Douglas says:

"Mayor Lucia Foster-Welch of Southampton, the only lady admiral in British naval history, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. D. M. Paton, who is Lady Mayoress of the city, will sail tomorrow morning on the Leviathan for an official visit to New York to return the call of Jimmy Walker.

"[Editor's Note.—In England the wife of a mayor, known as the Mayoress, performs important social and sometimes political duties. If the mayor—man or woman—is single it is the custom to appoint a near relative to be mayoress. In this case Mrs. Foster-Welch has nominated her daughter for the task.]

"Her sea rank entitles her to a salute of guns on her departure from Southampton and on her arrival in New York.

"Although the first mayor of Southampton assumed office in 1237, Mrs. Welch is the first woman to hold the post which carries with it the title of Admiral of the Port.

"The Mayor will board the Leviathan with appropriate ceremonies at 11 o'clock preceded by the Lady Mayoress, who also is the official mace bearer and is, too, the first woman to hold such an office.

"The flag of Admiral of the Port will be run to the foremost of the Leviathan and will remain until the ship reaches New York.

"After a call on Jimmy Walker, the Mayor will tour through several States and expects to stop at Boston, Buffalo, Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

"At the capital arrangements have been made for a reception by Secretary Kellogg."

The *United Press*, however, says that the Admiralty withdrew in 1833 the privilege of calling the Mayor of Southampton the Admiral of the Port.

# Equal Rights

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**OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY**
**The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.**

**THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT**
**"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."**

**"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."**

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]
Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1928, by Senator Charles E. Curtis, Kansas.
Introduced in the House, May 18, 1928, by Representative Frederick W. Magrady, Pennsylvania.


## "Dangerous"

JOIE RAY, United States competitor in the marathon at the Olympic Games, was forced out of the race because, according to the physician, "cold air, filtering gradually into his lungs, caused his leg muscles to tie up."

The correspondent of the New York *Sun* describes Ray's condition as follows:

> "He isn't certain whether he will run any more marathons now that his life's ambition has been blighted. Ray looked bluish white, features drawn like a death mask as he entered the stadium. He is a game little chap if ever there was one."

In the 800-meter race for women, the winner, Lina Radke of Germany, and Florence MacDonald, the United States entrant, who finished sixth, were exhausted, according to the press reports. The correspondent goes on to say, "It appears certain that this event will be eliminated as dangerous." It was, along with the broad jump, the shot-put, and the 200-meter race, although other women's events were retained in the Olympic Games after a heated contest.

In fact, there was so much criticism of the 800-meter race that there was talk of dropping out all the track and field events for women, although no reports reached this country telling of exhausted women in other competitions. Finally, however, the International Amateur Athletic Federation decided by a vote of 16 to 6 to retain the 100 meters flat, the 400 meters relay, the high jump, the discus throw, the javelin, and the 80-meter hurdle.

All this hullaballoo because some women were exhausted by a long run! Yet there was no spirited debate over discontinuing the marathon because Joie Ray was bluish white, because his face was like a death mask, because his leg muscles were tied up. The fact that he went on, in his enthusiasm and his ambition, until he got himself in the condition described by the doctor and the correspondent, merely made Joie Ray "a game little chap."

The women who went on until they were exhausted were not, in the view of the Federation or even of the newspaper correspondents, it seems, "game little girls." They weren't even "brave little women!" They had done something shockingly dangerous, and something ought to be done about it. Apparently, there ought to be a law. So the International Amateur Athletic Federation promptly made one—to exclude Lina Radke, who was exhausted, but who won just the same, but not to exclude Joie Ray, who got himself in a frightful condition, and didn't even win. It is up to Joie Ray, whose face was "bluish white, features drawn like a death mask," whether he will enter another marathon. It is not up to Lina Radke whether or not she will enter another 800-meter race. The Federation says firmly, "No, you exhausted yourself, and it's dangerous. You must not do it any more."

Perhaps many athletic events are dangerous for some people, perhaps some are dangerous for all people; we do not profess to know about that. But the ludicrousness of calling Joie Ray "a game little chap" and barring Lina Radke and all other women from the 800-meter race is the situation which would make us laugh if it were not so typical of what happens in the serious business of making a living.

The incident also reminds us, somehow, of the story of Katherine Stinson, pioneer not only among women fliers but also among instructors of flying, without distinction of sex. She wanted to enter the air forces of the United States during the World War, but was denied admission because of her sex. Aviation was too dangerous for women, but the authorities permitted her to drive an ambulance. That job so wrecked her health that she has never been able to fly since, although she had flown "dangerously" for years before she began to drive an ambulance. Piloting an airplane, doing stunt flights, teaching aviation, never injured her health, but because flying in the war was too dangerous for women, she took a job which sent her to long months in a hospital and kept her from going on with the work which she loved and in which she excelled.

If only they would let us decide for ourselves, as they let Joie Ray!

# Venezuelan Commissioner Arrives

LUCILA LUCIANI DE PÉREZ DIAZ, representative of Venezuela on the Inter-American Commission of Women, arrived in Washington on August 15. She was met at the station by His Excellency, Dr. Carlo Grisanti, Venezuelan Minister to the United States, who gave her a cordial welcome.

Señora Pérez Díaz, who is a well-known writer and historian, has come to cooperate in the legal research which is being conducted by the Inter-American Commission of Women, and her arrival is hailed by all interested in the question of Equal Rights for North and Latin American women.

The Commission, of which Doris Stevens is chairman, is at present turning its attention to the vexed question of the nationality of women. Clara Gonzales, young lawyer who is the Commissioner from Panama, arrived some weeks ago to direct the legal research. A staff of volunteer workers from several countries is engaged in studying the status of women under the laws of the twenty-one republics of the Americas.

Señora Pérez Díaz, who is as much at home in the United States as in her own sunny home, is accompanied by her sister. They are staying at the National Woman's Party headquarters.

Señora Pérez Díaz offers a splendid example of modern womanhood. The mother of a family of eight children, the youngest child being not yet two months old, she has managed her home and followed a career with ease and success. One of Señora Pérez Díaz's historical studies received the award of the Academy of History of Venezuela, and her contributions to the press are remarkable for brilliance of style and depth of thought. Señora Pérez Díaz has made distinguished contributions to historical research and her help on the Commission will be invaluable.

Miss Stevens is now in Europe conferring with Feminist leaders and authorities on international law on the question of the nationality of women, which is on the agenda of the Hague Conference on International Law next year. She will return next month, and the first meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Women will be held late in the fall.

# The Physique of Women

By Vera Brittain

*Reprinted from the Manchester Guardian (England) of June* 14, 1928.

THROUGHOUT the controversy that has gathered since the beginning of the century round the subject of equal pay for equal work, one assertion has consistently been made by the adverse critics of the theory. Women, it is conceded, may sometimes achieve in mental fields results that compare in quality and quantity with those of men, but never can they hope in industrial callings which require physical endurance and muscular strength to produce that equal work for which equal pay might be given.

Those who have studied to any extent the more recent investigations made by committees of specialists and by individual researchers into the problems of industrial health and fatigue, and the experiments and adaptations that have been based on their findings, must realize that this view, though still generally held, is already out of date. It is out of date on account of two circumstances; first, the various inventions which have decreased the need for purely muscular strength among both men and women in industry, and, secondly, the simultaneous discovery by impartial scientific bodies that healthy and suitably trained women have much greater muscular power than has hitherto been supposed, and that physical effort, as, for instance, in weight-lifting, should be regulated not by sex but by the build, balance, and general condition of the worker, whether man or woman.

As long ago as 1919 the Women's Employment Committee, which was appointed to examine the work of women in war-time and the possibilities of its continuation, reported that "the progress of scientific equipment is fast replacing strength by dexterity. Woman's future industrial kingdom, therefore, is hardly limited by her weaker muscles, for this is a boundary which is fast disappearing."

Today, weight-lifting tackle and other forms of industrial machinery are tending not only to eliminate such differences as may have existed between the physical powers of the sexes, but are giving to the skilled and intelligent worker a control over delicate, complex, and highly organized machines such as his brawny brother never possessed. "Invention and discovery," as H. G. Wells remarks in his latest publication, "The Open Conspiracy," "have so changed the conditions under which power is directed and utilized that muscle becomes economically secondary and inessential."

AT the same time as the value of purely muscular strength is diminishing throughout industry, two or three scientific reports have unexpectedly proved that, in occupations where this type of power is still required, well-nourished and adequately paid women have a far greater share of it than they have been credited with. Dr. Sybil Overton, for instance, in her inquiry into weight-lifting in the Factory Inspector's Report for 1926, showed that in well-paid heavy trades the women workers were strong and healthy, and that it was only in the poorly paid industries that they appeared to suffer from the weights. Conditions of work, she found, had far greater effect on the health of women than the actual weights lifted. It has since been discovered that more depends upon the right adjustment of the tool to the worker—such as the raising or lowering of the weight of a wheelbarrow —than upon the heaviness of the load.

The conclusions of Dr. Overton's inquiry were confirmed last year by the publication, on behalf of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, of Professor Cathcart's "Report on the Physique of Women in Industry." This report showed that the physical condition of women employed in heavy trades was much better than that of former factory workers engaged in housework, and that some of the "most perfect specimens of young womanhood" were found in the Glasgow chemical and brick works, where they had to move about twenty tons of material a day. These girls were born in the worst slum districts of Glasgow, and were the daughters and grand-daughters of women who had done similar work in their youth.

The latest addition to the growing number of reports and resolutions which disprove the old theories concerning the universal fragility of womanhood comes from Bologna, where on April 11 this year the Medical Women's International Association passed a resolution declaring that any legislation which fixes a definite weight to be lifted by women is unscientific, and that legislation dealing with weight-lifting "should relate the weight allowed to the lifting capacity of the individual — whether man or woman — as ascertained by careful tests."

There can be no doubt that medical research into the health of women tends increasingly to show that sentimentality on the one hand, and overwork combined with underpay on the other, have at least as much to do with feminine "frailty" as constitutional weaknesses, and that a comparison between the members of average vocational groups would show quite as much difference of physical strength within, as between, the sexes. Any such comparison should be graphically represented, not by a vertical line dividing men

from women, but by a horizontal line with some men and some women above it, and some men and some women below. "Differences of sex," as the minority report of the War Cabinet Committee remarked in 1919, "are demonstrably not coincident with differences of individual proficiency."

The long-continued assumption that all women are essentially, no matter what inventions are made and what changes of circumstance occur, so much weaker than all men that they must, as a sex, be restrictively regulated and, as a sex, underpaid, has tended to obscure the fact that the real enemies of the working woman are poverty, depression, underfeeding, and insufficient leisure. Low wages and their causes, as the War Cabinet Committee pointed out, react on one another, so that where physical disabilities do exist, overwork and poor nourishment make them worse.

Now that we are compelled by the conclusions of scientific investigation to face the fact that at any rate a large part of woman's physical inferiority is due to avoidable disadvantages, and that good pay and good conditions tend immediately to improve her staying power and her muscular capacity, it will not much longer be possible for the employers of women to shelter themselves behind the old convenient myth of the weaker vessel from their obligation to offer higher pay and better opportunities to the women workers of this country.

# Press Comment

## Movement for Equal Rights Advances

*By Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont.*
*Daily Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Miss.*

THE most significant step in the advancement of women since the first Equal Rights Convention in Seneca Falls in 1848 drew up a declaration calling for the removal of all forms of the subjection of women comes 80 years later with the presentation of an Equal Rights treaty to the Pan-American Conference in Havana in 1928.

As the first Feminist convention put into definite form the demands of women for an equal status with men, for which we today are still working, so the committee representing the National Woman's Party attending the conference of the twenty-one Republics of the Western Hemisphere has first offered the question for international action.

The problem of full civil and political equality for women has been officially acknowledged as one demanding world consideration, and is raised to the position of a world problem. The Pan-American Conference has recognized the question as belonging to this class by granting our women a hearing before their plenary session—a privilege which had formerly been reserved for high officials like the President of the United States.

After hearing the appeal of the women from the National Woman's Party, the Conference authorized by unanimous consent the appointment of a committee of twenty-one women to investigate and report back to the next conference, thus taking the same action on the question of equality for women as on other international affairs to be considered by the union of all the American States.

This second great advance toward the equality of women is, like the first, brought about by the initiative of the women of the United States. With the increased speed of the modern world we have not had to wait 50 years to see the first victory for the new policy. The appointment of the committee of women virtually concedes our contention. This advance made in the Western Hemisphere will, moreover, act as a spur to the older hemisphere of the East, which cannot afford to lag behind the western world in so important a step forward in the evolution of women. Furthermore, there now is established a precedent for consideration by international bodies of the rights of women. The standard having been set by a group of more progressive countries, the more conservative ones must follow along. We gauge the advancement of civilization in this age by the position of women in a country or group of countries.

I am having the now historical speech of Doris Stevens before the Pan-American Conference translated into French for distribution to leading women throughout Europe. Through our own International Advisory Council, with representatives from twenty-one countries of the Old World, we shall send out this report of another great victory in the woman movement to the women struggling for recognition in many nations to inform them and to encourage them to renew their efforts in the always difficult fight against fear and prejudice, which form the greater obstacles to woman's advancement.

Feminists in the other countries—Europe, Asia, and Africa—will know of our achievements and will follow by presenting before international conferences where their countries are represented demands similar to ours for an Equal Rights treaty.

# Women's Inventive Genius

"MINORS and women and even convicts may apply for patents under our law," according to a description of the regulations of the United States Patent Office in one encyclopedia, and this uncomplimentary classification of the status of the woman inventor is indicative of the handicaps under which she has been forced to create but which she is steadily overcoming, says the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor in a statement issued recently.

A study covering a 10-year period of the patent records by the Bureau has revealed that less than 2 per cent. of the patents issued during that period were granted to women, but that the proportion of increase in creative effort as between the two sexes was a different story. Laboring under the weight of unbelief as to her ability, with very few laboratories open to her work, the woman inventor has increased her output over 35 per cent. in the last five years of the period over that of the first five years, as against a less than 17 per cent. increase on the part of men inventors.

As opportunities are gradually opened to women along these lines, with the development of recognition given women's work everywhere, the Women's Bureau feels that it will not be long before women as inventors will be recognized as their other work has been, and that the entire country will benefit.

The types of inventions by women vary as widely as the range of those by men. They extend from the home into practically all lines of activity in which women are participating. Of the more than five thousand patents issued to them in the 10-year period, the largest number, 1,385, were inventions for the household, and the next largest, 1,090, for personal wear and use, as might be expected; but the other groups were particularly interesting, as they showed much variety and importance. They included 221 patents in agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry; 223 in manufacturing; 208 in structural materials; 345 in transportation; 378 for supplies for use in industry, agriculture, commerce, and the home; 227 in medical, surgical, and dental equipment; 211 in amusement; 129 in safety and sanitation, and the remainder scattered through such

fields as mining and smelting equipment and materials, trade, steam laundry equipment, and ordnance, firearms, and ammunition. Even fishermen were nine inventions to the good as a result of women who had pondered the ways of the elusive trout in a mountain stream.

The individual inventions themselves showed many trivial ideas, of course, as any patent record would show, but the proportion of such socially valuable products as a new internal combustion engine or a block signal system were well to the fore, the Women's Bureau says. One farm woman who had originated a device for distributing fertilizer gave her reason for the invention as "Yankee laziness — I didn't like bending my back so much." But it is interesting to remember that this same "Yankee laziness" has been behind most of the improvements in comfort and efficiency that have enriched and simplified living in the United States.

The Women's Bureau recommends in its report that more attention be given by those in positions of authority to the opening up of facilities for women inventors, and that effort be made to decrease the difficulties in the way of marketing these inventions.

"The Nation will be rewarded," the bureau says, "by the increased measure of inventive service from women of creative abilities; and capable women will find constantly enlarging opportunities in this branch of the field of creative labor."

Is is said that the first patent issued to an American colonist was granted by England to a Philadelphia woman who had perfected a mill for grinding hominy.

WOMEN of other countries, too, have shown their inventive genius. *La Femme Polonaise* says that it is owing to a woman that Poland now has an asphalt of its own. An important discovery by Dr. Iwanowska, a Polish chemist, has revolutioned the construction of the streets and roads. An excellent durable and non-slippery asphalt can be made from substances abundantly found in the country. The high quality of the new product, as well as its low price, has drawn attention to it in other countries. The United States and Czecho-Slovakia have taken steps to obtain the patent, it is said. In Poland a company has been formed for making this "Cel-asfalt" as this new product is called. At present it has two big factories, one near Posnanie and the other near Warsaw, which provide work for hundreds of men.

There are antiquarians who say that a woman invented the first plow. Ancient records are believed to show that aerial signalling was invented by a woman, according to Mrs. S. M. Souveille of Florida. She also points out that spinning was invented in China by the wife of Emperor Yao, at least 2400 B. C.

Mrs. Souveille tells as follows of early inventions of women:

"Until 1860 women seldom applied to the United States Patent Office for patents on their inventions. Toward the end of the Nineteenth Century, the Patent Office collected in a special department at the Atlanta Exposition the models patented by women, and people were astonished at the variety and versatility exhibited in the display.

"There were models of new wheels for locomotives (by Mrs. Montgomery), modification in the disulphuration of minerals (Mrs. E. Meadows), railway elevators (Mrs. M. E. Walton), and electrical machinery for transmission.

"Madam Ballinger showed apparatus for sterlizing objects by exhaustion of steam; Madam Rosette La Rouge an automatic machine for washing public roads. Madam D. Ferdinand perfected the method of producing lights upon stage scenery. Madam Pecour discovered the process of extracting cobalt from the minerals which contain it. Harrie Hosmer is inventor of the permanent magnet as a motive power for lifting large masses of metal, and for a novel method of changing lime into marble. Mrs. N. Johnson invented the ice-cream freezer. The science of anatomy is indebted to Madam de Coudra for the manikin.

"Mary Powers has contributed to mankind a device for deadening the noise of the elevated railroads, and also a successful smoke consumer. In 1879 Margaret Knight of Boston invented a machine for making paper bags. A Washington woman has given her name to the Coston light, so valuable in marine signalling. Frances Durham is responsible for the artificial comb foundation for bees to build upon."

# The Old Brick Capitol

THE Commission sitting to appraise the headquarters of the National Woman's Party and other properties involved in the United States Supreme Court site condemnation has adjourned until September 17. The property owners have presented their evidence, but the Government has not as yet concluded its testimony.

During the condemnation proceedings, the Senate passed a resolution calling for the preservation of the headquarters on the ground that the property is of great historic importance. At the present time the resolution is in the hands of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. The historical importance of the property was questioned by a few private individuals in a letter to the Washington *Star,* and there is printed herewith the reply of a defender of the genuineness of the Old Capitol, Frank W. Hutchins.

"To the Editor of the *Star:*

"The movement to give the United States Supreme Court a new home is raising a question as to the genuineness of one of our country's noted landmarks.

"Upon the site chosen for the Supreme Court Building stands a great gray edifice that long has been honored as the 'Old Brick Capitol.' The condemnation proceedings have led to the assertion that this building is not the storied one it has been supposed to be — that the famous 'Old Brick Capitol' was utterly demolished years ago.

"A most serious assertion. This building, if genuine, is, except for the present Capitol and the White House, the most historic in Washington; if spurious, the country has wasted upon it a good deal of sentiment and a bronze plate.

"To get at the facts, something of the undisputed record must first be given. After the burning of Washington by the British in 1814, certain citizens hastened to erect a large brick building for the use of Congress. It stood where now stands the building in question, just outside the Capitol grounds, at the corner of First and A Streets Northeast; and it probably saved to Washington the seat of government. Through four years of exceptional legislative importance it was the home of Congress — the Congress of Clay, of Webster, of Calhoun.

"After that, though used for one purpose and another, it was always known as the 'Old Brick Capitol.' During the Civil War it was taken by the Government and made new history for itself as the 'Capitol Prison.' After the war it stood virtually unchanged for a year or two, when it came into the hands of George T. Brown, sergeant-at-arms of the Senate. So far, anyway, there is no dispute. Up to this time the building standing on the historic site was the genuine 'Old Brick Capitol.'

"Now, what happened? The general understanding is that Mr. Brown simply remodeled the old building into a row of three dwellings; but the present claim is that he totally demolished it and erected on its site a wholly new building. Which did he do?

"If we turn for the answer to the old records, hoping to find something as to building permits, we learn that they have been burned. If we dip into reminiscences and later-day newspaper accounts, we get little help; for while almost all indicate

that the structure was simply remodeled, yet they are too confused to be reliable.

"Turn instead to evidence strictly cotemporaneous. In the Washington *Evening Star* of July 13, 1867, there is a little paragraph which reads:

"'The Old Capitol—The contract for converting the Old Capitol Building, now the property of Mr. George T. Brown, sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, into three dwellings, was yesterday awarded to Messrs. Morsel & Denning.'

"Similar notices appeared at the time in other papers, the language of one being, 'to be converted into three dwelling houses.' This seems fairly conclusive of the question. The very contract placed was not at all for demolition, but for the remodeling of the 'Old Brick Capitol.'

"However, we may also follow somewhat the actual work by cotemporaneous account. We come upon such allusions as, 'The remodeling of the Old Brick Capitol into three fine mansions'; and again, 'The Old Capitol Prison is undergoing a change so marked that soon the building will not be known.' A very detailed account, almost cotemporaneous, is given in the Washington *Republic* of May 4, 1880. Speaking of Mr. Brown's work upon the 'Old Capitol,' it says: 'He tore out the inside, added a mansard roof, built separating walls, remodeled the old structure and turned it into three magnificent residences.'

"Surely all this disposes of the claim that the noted old home of Congress was demolished. Surely it establishes that the building we have honored is, however altered, the historic temporary Capitol.

"Should not the attack upon it only lead to its better appreciation? Our sluggish national sentiment is reaching out at last to save what it may of our historic landmarks. It even yet should save this old home of Congress, as indeed the Senate recently sought to do. The building is in good condition, and much less changed than others that are being rehabilitated.

"But if it must go, let it go with a clear title to being the 'Old Brick Capitol.'"

(Signed) FRANK W. HUTCHINS.

# Miss Caldwell Given Party Post

HELEN E. CALDWELL, Democratic nominee for the New Jersey Assembly from Essex County, has been made legislative chairman of the Essex County Women's Democratic Club. She is also industrial chairman of the New Jersey State Branch of the National Woman's Party.

Miss Caldwell is making a strong campaign for Equal Rights as a part of her campaign for election to the New Jersey Senate. She resents implications that she, with others who protest restrictive legislation for working women, advocates the exploitation of women in industry with regard to long hours and the like. What Miss Caldwell desires is equal opportunity for women with men, and no "protection"" for women which would handicap them in the open labor market.

"The Democratic national platform has declared for equality for women with men in political and governmental matters; also equal wage for equal service. In this I salute the party of Jefferson. Now for equal opportunity. Let's have it," Miss Caldwell said in a statement.

Turning to the argument that friends of Equal Rights would countenance exploitation of women, Miss Caldwell stated that this is ridiculous in this modern day and generation. No workingman or woman today would tolerate the unfortunate conditions of former years, she said. She quoted Matthew Woll of the American Federation of Labor on this theme. Mr. Woll, in an address made this spring, said:

"The old questions which once were agitated between capital and labor are now extinct, or practically so. Capital in America has learned that better results are obtained through co-operation with labor than fighting it. Organized labor has done away with most of the old abuses of long hours and inadequate pay. It has not accomplished this through legislation, as some people think, but through economic action, which is much more effective and lasting."

Miss Caldwell is a fur buyer in a New York department store. Her type of employment is unorganized. She is firmly convinced, however, that all workers have been helped by what the unions have achieved.

"Mr. Woll's statement is very cheering to American labor in general," she said. "I wish at this time to thank the American Federation of Labor for all it has accomplished, for indirectly what has been a benefit to organized labor has also vastly assisted unorganized labor, of which group I am at present a member. I also desire to extend my personal thanks to all the good men and women of all organizations who have helped and still are interesting themselves in humanizing American industry."

Hereupon Miss Caldwell once more enunciated her position in accord with that of the National Woman's party.

"However, as a citizen, voter, taxpayer, and a working woman, I insist that the adult woman worker must be free to control her own destiny in open competition in all suitable occupations," she declared. "I resent the efforts of all those who would attempt to legislate the earning powers of women alone, by dictating when they shall or shall not have the right to work."

Miss Caldwell admits willingly the necessity of judicious State legislation to protect children and minors in industry. She also would favor, if sent to the New Jersey Assembly, "scientific measures of high standard for the equal protection of the adult male and female worker." She concluded with what has practically become the slogan of her campaign:

"Let legislation be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker."

## *Two Million Dollar Fund*

### Treasurer's Report

EMMA WOLD, *Treasurer*

NETTIE TRAIL, C. P. A., *Auditor*

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters December 7, 1912 to August 1, 1928, $1,455,644.97.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, N. Y. | $75.00 |
| Miss Esther McLaughlin, N. Y. | 1.00 |
| Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa. | 5.00 |
| Maryland Branch | 75.00 |
| Miss Betty Mayer, D. C. | 10.00 |
| Per Montana Branch: (Montana Branch retaining dues in excess of 25 cents) | |
| Miss M. G. Buckhous | .25 |
| Mrs. Stephen Pell, N. Y. | 50.00 |
| Mrs. A. H. Bright, Calif. | 5.00 |
| Per Santa Barbara (Calif.) Branch: (Santa Barbara Branch retaining dues in excess of 25 cents) | |
| Mrs. Mae F. Curran | .25 |
| Miss Naomi Morgan | .25 |
| Per District of Columbia Branch: (District of Columbia Branch retaining dues in excess of 25 cents) | |
| Dr. Nell Bartram Wright | .25 |
| Miss Frances Crosby (two years) | .50 |
| Mrs. H. C. Easterday | .25 |
| Mrs. Lillian D. Fisher | .25 |
| Miss Helen Jamison | .25 |
| Miss Mate Lewis | .25 |
| Miss Lottie Magee | 25 |
| Mrs. J. F. Magee | .25 |
| Mrs. B. McClung | .25 |
| Refund | 2.00 |
| Dividend from Endowment Fund | 16.00 |
| EQUAL RIGHTS subscriptions (forwarded to EQUAL RIGHTS office) | 2.00 |
| Rent of rooms at Headquarters | 563.78 |
| Total receipts, August 1 to 16, 1928 | $808.03 |
| Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to August 16, 1928 | $1,456,453.00 |

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